

News Release



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
January 2, 2015

Restricted Visitation at Durham VA Medical Center due to Increasing Number of Influenza Cases

DURHAM, N.C. – The Durham VA Medical Center has instituted restricted visitation due to increasing number of flu cases reported in the area, and within the facility. Hospital officials are asking that persons under the age of 18 not come to the Medical Center or Community Based Outpatient Clinics (CBOCs) in order to prevent the spread of illness among patients and those visiting our facilities.

In addition, people of all ages suffering from fever, cough, headache, fatigue, congestion or body aches should not come to the hospital or CBOCs unless they are receiving care. Patients with these symptoms will be asked to wear a mask while in the facility. Patients experiencing flu-like symptoms are encouraged to call their Primary Care Provider for a phone assessment prior to coming into clinics. These restrictions will be in place until further notice.

The Durham VA Medical Center was able to purchase Tamiflu in advance of the flu season and has it readily available for our Veterans. There are some basic precautions everyone can use to help prevent the spread of influenza. The flu vaccine is available for all Medical Center and CBOC patients on a walk-in basis. Use good hand hygiene, washing with warm water and soap, and use hand sanitizer when soap and water are not available. Proper cough and sneezing practices - using a tissue or upper sleeve (cough into the elbow) – further limits the spread of the virus. Lastly, if you are ill, take precautions to limit personal contact with the general public, rest, and remain hydrated.

For more information please contact the Public Affairs Office at 919-286-0411 extension 6986.

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